

The continuous sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides landowners with excellent financial incentives to install conservation practices such as forested riparian buffers and field windbreaks.

These financial incentives include:

1. A 50% cost share reimbursement for establishing tree and shrub cover.
2. A 40% practice incentive payment for installing a forested riparian buffer or field windbreak (this brings total reimbursement to 90% of the total practice cost).
3. An up-front sign-up incentive payment of either \$100 or \$150 per acre.
4. An annual rental payment based upon the past three years of cash rent for crop-ground and a rental rate of \$84 per acre for marginal pasture land. Rental payments can be for 10 or 15 years.
5. An additional 20% of the soil rental rate for forested riparian buffers and field windbreaks installed on crop-ground.

Your land is eligible for enrollment in this program if it has been cropped for 2 of the last 5 years or if it is marginal pastureland that is suitable for use as a riparian buffer and be planted to trees.

FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFERS Under continuous CRP, riparian buffers consist of strips of trees and shrubs up to 180 feet wide planted along rivers, creeks, streams, or ponds. If planted on cropland 1/3 of the area must be trees or shrubs. If planted on marginal pasture at least 160 feet must be woody vegetation. Riparian buffers can cut sediment in surface runoff as much as 90%, cut nitrogen and phosphorous runoff by 80%, and support five times the number of bird species as cropped or heavily grazed land. Additionally buffers remove nitrate from the groundwater, cut streambank erosion, and increase soil organic matter. Buffers can be economic sites for growing various forest products, from seeds (nuts) to high quality fast growing timber.

FIELD WINDBREAKS Field windbreaks consist of a combination of trees and shrubs planted to enhance wildlife habitat and prevent soil erosion. Field windbreaks, under CRP, must be planted on existing cropland. Commonly they are 8 to 16 rows wide (80 to 180 feet).



JANUARY 2003

This information printed in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, State and Private Forestry.

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, origin, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, please write to: Director, IDNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.



Printed on
Recycled Paper



WILDLIFE HABITAT is one of the many benefits of a buffer.



IOWA GROWN nursery stock establishes buffers quickly and confidently!



Improve our
LAND & WATER
with



**FOREST
BUFFERS**

Improve your
ASSETS
for generations!

WHAT IS A FOREST BUFFER? A forest buffer is a planting of trees, shrubs and grasses along or near a stream, or waterway that when properly installed and maintained traps sediment from overland flow before reaching the stream. Water quality is a serious issue in Iowa. Installing a forest buffer on your farm is one way that you can help.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Filter sediment from in surface runoff as much as 90%.
- Filter excess nitrogen and phosphorus in runoff by 80%.
- Stabilize stream banks and erosion by 80%.
- Enhance aquatic and wildlife habitat by shading, filtering and moderating stream flow. Continuous stretches of buffers serve as wildlife nesting and travel corridors.
- Create economic gains from growing valuable nuts and timber products.
- Screen unwanted views and makes the landscape attractive.

WHERE DO BUFFERS WORK BEST? Buffers of trees and shrubs work best on marginal cropland and pastures that exist along streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS AND INCENTIVES AVAILABLE? Typically to establish an acre of forest buffer with 400-600 conservation trees and shrubs per acre, costs range from \$400-\$600 per acre. This includes site preparation work before planting, tree and shrub seedlings, planting costs and the first year of weed control.

Under the “continuous” sign up for the USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), landowners receive financial incentives to install conservation practices such as forest buffers and field windbreaks. The incentives include:

- An annual rental payment based upon the past 3 years of cash rent for cropland (averaging \$120-\$130 per acre in Iowa) and a rental rate of \$84 per acre for marginal pasture land. Rental payments can be for 10 to 15 years.
- An up front sign-up incentive payment of \$100-\$150 per acre.
- Up to 90% cost share reimbursement for installing conservation trees and shrubs for a forest buffer.

Your land is eligible for enrollment in Continuous CRP if it has been cropped for 2 of the last 5 years or if it is marginal pasture land that is suitable for use as a riparian buffer and be planted to trees.

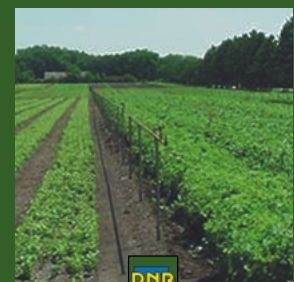
WHERE CAN I GET HELP? To sign up for the continuous CRP program, you do not need to wait for a general CRP sign-up and bid your payments. Stop in at your local USDA Service Center Farm Service Agency anytime and sign up. For help in designing and planning your Forest Buffer, contact your local Iowa Department of Natural Resources District Forester (www.state.ia.us/forestry) or your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Office (www.ia.usda.nrcs.gov).

WHERE CAN I GET TREES AND SHRUBS? The Iowa **STATE FOREST NURSERY** grows a large selection of **IOWA GROWN** trees and shrubs for conservation planting. There are also private nurseries here in Iowa that have **IOWA GROWN** seedlings. A listing of private nurseries that grow conservation seedlings can be found at www.state.ia.us/forestry or check with your DNR forester for a listing of nurseries that supply plant material appropriate for your area.

We promote the use of **IOWA GROWN** conservation trees and shrubs. **IOWA GROWN** means that seed sources are hardy and adaptable to Iowa growing conditions. They offer the best value and opportunities to enhance economic opportunities and wildlife values on your property.



THIS EXTENSIVE BUFFER works well within tillable land while trapping field runoff.



PLANT IOWA GROWN NURSERY STOCK!

VISIT
www.state.ia.us/forestry
OR CALL
800-865-2477